

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer-readable storage medium, comprising computer instructions for:

- providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

- allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

- allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

- storing said information; and

- sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

- allowing the user to search for one or more records;

- allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public by selecting a Private icon, Semi-Private icon, or Public icon, respectively, for a corresponding field in the electronic business card file;

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file Web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user;

wherein the electronic business card file Web site is implemented by use of two front-end web servers and a database server that is accessed by the two front-end web servers.

Claim 18 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the Internet.

Claim 19 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

Claim 20 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

Claim 21 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

Claim 22 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

Claim 23 (original): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17, wherein a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

Claim 25 (currently amended): A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

storing said information; and

sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

allowing the user to search for one or more records;

allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public by selecting a Private icon, Semi-Private icon, or Public icon,

respectively, for a corresponding field in the electronic business card file;

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file Web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user;

wherein the electronic business card file Web site is implemented by use of two front-end web servers and a database server that is accessed by the two front-end web servers.

Claim 26 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the Internet.

Claim 27 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

Claim 28 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

Claim 29 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

Claim 30 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

Claim 31 (original): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The computer data signal of Claim 25, wherein a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

Claim 33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (cancelled)

Claim 35 (cancelled)

Claim 36 (cancelled)

Claim 37 (cancelled)

Claim 38 (cancelled)

Claim 39 (cancelled)

Claim 40 (previously cancelled)

Claim 41 (cancelled)

Claim 42 (previously cancelled)

Claim 43 (previously presented) (allowed): A method of providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising the steps of:

- providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

- allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

- allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

- storing said information; and

- sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

- allowing the user to search for one or more records;

- allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file;

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file Web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user;

wherein the electronic business card file Web site is implemented by use of two front-end web servers and a database server that is accessed by the two front-end web servers.

Claim 44 (previously presented) (allowed): The method of Claim 43, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the internet.

Claim 45 (previously presented) (allowed): The method of Claim 43, wherein said electronic business card file Web

site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

Claim 46 (previously presented) (allowed): The method of claim 43, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

Claim 47 (previously presented) (allowed): The method of claim 43, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

Claim 48 (previously presented) (allowed): The method of claim 43, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

Claim 49 (previously presented) (allowed): The method of claim 43, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

Claim 50 (previously presented) (allowed): The method of Claim 43, wherein a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

Claim 51 (previously presented) (allowed): The method of claim 43, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public by selecting a Private icon, Semi-Private icon, or Public icon, respectively, for a corresponding field in the electronic business card file.

Claim 52 (previously presented) (allowed): A computer system for providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising computer instructions for:

- providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

- allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising:

- allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file;

- storing said information; and

- sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

- allowing the user to search for one or more records;

- allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user;

- if said creation is completed, allowing the setting of privacy levels by the user for each said field, said setting comprising selecting one of more than two privacy levels so that the user controls data shown in each said field to another user based upon the selected privacy level for each said field, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or

Public for each particular field in the electronic business card file;

allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date; and

sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file Web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user;

wherein the electronic business card file Web site is implemented by use of two front-end web servers and a database server that is accessed by the two front-end web servers.

Claim 53 (previously presented) (allowed): The computer system of Claim 52, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the Internet.

Claim 54 (previously presented) (allowed): The computer system of Claim 52, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

Claim 55 (previously presented) (allowed): The computer system of Claim 52, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

Claim 56 (previously presented) (allowed): The computer system of Claim 52, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

Claim 57 (previously presented) (allowed): The computer system of Claim 52, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

Claim 58 (previously presented) (allowed): The computer system of claim 52, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

Claim 59 (previously presented) (allowed): The computer system of Claim 52, wherein a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

Claim 60 (previously presented) (allowed): The method of claim 52, wherein the user can set the privacy level to Private, Semi-Private, or Public by selecting a Private icon, Semi-Private icon, or Public icon, respectively, for a corresponding field in the electronic business card file.

Claim 61 (currently amended): A method of providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, comprising the steps of:

providing an electronic business card file Web site to a user;

allowing the creation of an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file, and storing said information; and

if said creation is completed, allowing the user to set one of a plurality of privacy levels for each of said plurality of fields in the electronic business card file, wherein the user can set the privacy level to a first privacy level or a second privacy level by selecting a first icon or second icon, respectively, for a corresponding field in the electronic business card file;

wherein the electronic business card file Web site is implemented by use of two front-end web servers and a database server that is accessed by the two front-end web servers.

Claim 62 (cancelled)

Claim 63 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~62~~61, wherein the electronic business card file Web site further includes a fail-over server that protects the database server.

Claim 64 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~62~~61, wherein the electronic business card file Web site further includes a redundant array of inexpensive disk drives (RAID) that is accessed by the database server.

Claim 65 (previously presented): The method of claim 61, further comprising:

 sending an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

Claim 66 (previously presented): The method of claim 61, further comprising:

 allowing the user to search for one or more records; and

 allowing the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user.

Claim 67 (previously presented): The method of claim 61, further comprising:

 allowing the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date.

Claim 68 (previously presented): The method of claim 61, further comprising:

 sending an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file Web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for

the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user.

Claim 69 (previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein a privacy level permits the user to control data shown in each said field to another user of the Web site, based upon the selected privacy level for each said field.

Claim 70 (previously presented): The method of Claim 61, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the internet.

Claim 71 (previously presented): The method of Claim 61, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

Claim 72 (previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

Claim 73 (previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

Claim 74 (previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

Claim 75 (previously presented): The method of claim 61, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

Claim 76 (previously presented): The method of Claim 61, wherein a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.

Claim 77 (currently amended): An apparatus for providing access to a collection of electronic business cards, the apparatus comprising:

an electronic business card file Web site accessible by a user;

wherein the Web site is configured to allow the user to create an electronic business card file by the user using said Web site, said creation comprising allowing the user to enter information into a plurality of fields in the electronic business card file, and storing said information; and

if said creation is completed, allowing the user to set one of a plurality of privacy levels for each of said plurality of fields in the electronic business card file, wherein the user can set the privacy level to a first privacy level or a second privacy level by selecting a first icon or second icon, respectively, for a corresponding field in the electronic business card file;

wherein the electronic business card file Web site is implemented by use of two front-end web servers and a

database server that is accessed by the two front-end web servers.

Claim 78 (cancelled)

Claim 79 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~78~~77, wherein the electronic business card file Web site further includes a fail-over server that protects the database server.

Claim 80 (currently amended): The method of claim ~~78~~77, wherein the electronic business card file Web site further includes a redundant array of inexpensive disk drives (RAID) that is accessed by the database server.

Claim 81 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 77, wherein the Web site is configured to send an authentication email to the user, wherein a reply to said authentication email is required to complete said creation;

Claim 82 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 77, wherein the Web site is configured to the user to search for one or more records and allow the user to view said records and to export electronic business card data from records in a private list of the user to a file readable by a contact management program, wherein another user associated with a record in the private list has extra privileges granted by the user.

Claim 83 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 77, wherein the Web site is configured to allow the user to indicate a location of the user prior to an expiration date.

Claim 84 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 77, wherein the Web site is configured to send an electronic mail by the user to a recipient, wherein the electronic mail contains a signature hypertext link that permits the recipient to access the electronic business card file Web site in order to create a new electronic business card file for the recipient and to access information in a permitted field of the electronic business card file of the user.

Claim 85 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 77, wherein a privacy level permits the user to control data shown in each said field to another user of the Web site, based upon the selected privacy level for each said field.

Claim 86 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 77, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from the internet.

Claim 87 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 77, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from an intranet isolated from the Internet by a firewall security device.

Claim 88 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 77, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a web browser.

Claim 89 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 77, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a personal digital assistant.

Claim 90 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 77, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible from a browser-enabled telephone.

Claim 91 (previously presented): The apparatus of claim 77, wherein said electronic business card file Web site is accessible by spoken commands.

Claim 92 (previously presented): The apparatus of Claim 77, wherein a first format response scheme to the user comprises audio playback.